

Man campaigns to dump mayor

BY ALEX RODRIGUEZ
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A Rolling Meadows resident says he is leading an effort to get Mayor William Ahrens kicked out of office through a recall election, but even other political opponents of Ahrens are dismissing the resident as an "extremist."

Randy Toler, 4665 Kirchhoff Road, said he started knocking on doors and passing out flyers Wednesday as part of "a long campaign to

oust Ahrens." He claims Ahrens has ignored residents living west of Route 53 and has fostered political cronyism.

However, Ahrens' primary foe, 2nd Ward Alderman Thomas Menzel, said Toler is just trying to use Ahrens as a way to vault himself into city politics.

"I think he has a desire to take an active role in local politics, and his approach is to attack things and people," Menzel said.

Ahrens wouldn't comment on the

matter. But 3rd Ward Alderman Elaine Werling, one of Ahrens' allies, said Toler was simply trying to generate publicity for his own gain.

Toler, 30, says he is the founder of the national Green Party, an environmentalist organization of about 20,000 members known for staging protests on issues such as nuclear power.

Rolling Meadows has no law allowing for the recall of an elected official. However, Menzel has announced that he will push to have a recall ordinance passed, but denies

he is targeting the move at Ahrens.

Ahrens, meanwhile, has countered that Menzel was directing a recall effort directly at him.

Toler said he wants to create enough of a public outcry to force the council to pass a recall ordinance. He said he will schedule a meeting sometime in June for residents interested in his effort.

"What I'm doing is demonstrating that this is a campaign that will snowball and won't be wished away," Toler said.